

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00484 131241 Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-09

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 INT-08 DODE-00 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 CU-04 PPT-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 AID-20 SS-14

NSC-10 L-03 H-02 IO-12 RSR-01 T-03 /171 W

----- 039302

R 131205 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8653

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AXEMBASSY LONDON 1548

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, SOCI, ZA, RH

SUBJ: SCHOOL CHILDREN PERMITTED CROSS BORDER TO ZAMBIA

REF: LUSAKA 321

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SECRETARY GENERAL TO GOVERNMENT AARON MILNER ANNOUNCED MARCH 9 CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE ALLOWED CROSS RHODESIA- ZAMBIA BORDER NEXT MONTH IN ORDER SPEND SCHOOL VACATION WITH PARENTS IN ZAMBIA. CHILDREN WILL BE TRANSPORTED BY RHODESIAN BUS TO CHIRUNDU (ONLY PERMISSIBLE BORDER CROSSING POICT) WHERE THEY WILL BE MET BY ZAMBIAN BUSES. ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS AND COMMERCIAL FARMERS BUREAU DESIGNATED TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN' S TRAVEL BY THIS MEANS AND ACT AS LINK BETWEEN PARENTS AND GRZ. SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WILL APPLY FOR TRAVEL BACK TO SCHOOL IN LATE APRIL- EARLY MAY. MILNER ALSO SAID MINISTRY OF HOME
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00484 131241 Z

AFFAIRS WILL CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE WISHING CROSS BORDER ON " COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS" (NOT OTHERWISE DEFINED).

2. AT SAME TIME MILNER REITERATED GRZ POSITION THAT BORDER CLOSURE WITH RHODESIA IS IRREVOCABLE. MILNER STATED, " THERE IS NO QUESTION OF OPENING THE BORDER WHATSOEVER UNTIL GRZ IS SATISFIED POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE OPPRESSED MAJORITY TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN DESTINY."

3. ESTIMATED 2,000 CHILDREN FROM ZAMBIA ATTENDING SCHOOL IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, LARGE MAJORITY CHILDREN OF EXPATRIATE COPPER COMPANY EMPLOYEES. RIGID GRZ STAND PROHIBITING EVEN SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM CROSSING BORDER TO JOIN PARENTS FOR HOLIDAYS HAD BEEN CAUSING COPPER COMPANES AND OTHERS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN. SUBMISSION OF EXPATRIATE RESIGNATIONS ROSE MARKEDLY DURING FEBRUARY AND INCLUDED SOME TOP LEVEL COPPER INDUSTRY TECHNICIANS AND MANAGERS WHO COMPANIES SAY ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO REPLACE. ACCORDING MISSIONARY SOURCE, EXPATRIATE FARMERS IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE HAD BEEN CONSIDERING LEAVING COUNTRY AS WELL FOR SAME REASON. GRZ RELAXATION OF PROHIBITION ON SCHOOL CHILDREN CROSSING BORDER SHOULD HELP REDUCE NUMBER OF RESIGNATIONS OF CRITICAL EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL, THOUGH WORRIES ABOUT CHILDREN IN SOUTH IN CURRENT SITUATION AND LACK OF DIRECT ACCESS TO RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA FOR R& R WILL DOUBTLESS STILL LEAD SOME EXPATRIATES TO LEAVE.
NELSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LUSAKA00484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730326/aaaahnjb.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 LUSAKA 321
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971120
Subject: SCHOOL CHILDREN PERMITTED CROSS BORDER TO ZAMBIA
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, SOCI, RH, ZA
To: AF
AXEMBASSY LONDON
BLANTYRE
CAPE TOWN
GABORONE
PRETORIA
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005